



MEMORANDUM
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HUMAN SERVICES
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: July 6, 2021

FROM: Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA, Director of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Emergency Rental Assistance to Placer County Housing Authority and City of Roseville

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Approve an amendment to a grant agreement with the City of Roseville to administer emergency rental assistance to the benefit of Roseville residents consistent with county and federal guidelines to increase the agreement by \$1,789,826.98 for an overall amount not to exceed \$6,917,900.59 from March 10, 2021, through March 31, 2022, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to execute the amendment with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence, and to sign subsequent amendments up to \$100,000, consistent with the agreement's subject matter and scope of work with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence.
2. Approve an amendment to a grant agreement with the Placer County Housing Authority to administer emergency rental assistance to the benefit of Placer County residents, excluding the City of Roseville, consistent with county and federal guidelines to increase the agreement by \$1,958,501.78 for an overall amount not to exceed \$8,673,441.07 from March 10, 2021, through March 31, 2022, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to execute the amendment with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence, and to sign subsequent amendments up to \$100,000, consistent with the agreement's subject matter and scope of work with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence.
3. Authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to execute further amendments to the grant agreement with the Placer County Housing Authority to administer emergency rental assistance to the benefit of all Placer County residents for an additional \$6,917,900.59 through March 31, 2022, in the event that the City of Roseville is no longer able to accept these emergency rental assistance funds and participate in the program.

BACKGROUND

On January 21, 2021, Placer County received \$11,843,012.90 from the Department of Treasury (DOT) to administer the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) grant.

At the January 26, 2021, BOS meeting, your Board, ratified a grant agreement with DOT to receive funds for emergency rental and utility assistance for Placer County residents. This funding was made available as part of the December 2020 COVID-19 relief package and omnibus spending bill. These funds were made available to assist tenants that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds should be used to provide assistance to eligible tenants through existing or newly created rental assistance programs. Specifically, funding will assist tenants at or below 80% of the area median income unable to pay rent and/or utilities due to loss of income from the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding was made for immediate distribution but with some minor exceptions and must be used by December 31, 2021.

This funding was not made available to the City of Roseville, as the DOT offered funding only to counties, cities, and states with populations greater than 200,000. However, in recognition of the large portion of the population residing in Roseville and of the effectiveness of their administration of housing programs, Placer County Health and Human Services contacted City of Roseville and determined they would be interested in administering the funding portion for Roseville residents through the Roseville Housing Authority.

Placer County Health and Human Services proposed that the Placer County Housing Authority (PCHA) administer the larger portion of the funding to serve citizens outside of the city limits of Roseville and that the City of Roseville would administer the funds for the citizens inside the city. On March 9, 2021, your Board selected this proposal and approved the grant agreement.

The grant contracts authorized Placer County Health and Human Services to provide PCHA with \$6,714,939.29 to administer its' portion of the ERA grant and provide the City of Roseville with grant funding in the amount of \$6,917,900.59 to operate its' portion of ERA grant. Administration costs were not to exceed 10% per DOT guidelines. The Placer County Housing Authority and City of Roseville agreed to abide by all the rules and regulations as put forth by the Department of Treasury and provide monthly reporting to the County in accordance with Treasury requirements. Should funding not be expended in its entirety by 12/31/2021, the Placer County Housing Authority and City of Roseville agree to return the funding to Placer County Health and Human Services.

The program allows for rental and utility arrears to be paid back in full to March 13, 2020. There is not a limit on the amount per tenant, save for funding, and the intention is to have the tenant completely caught up so as to ensure the tenant can remain housed. Once all arrearages for the tenant are paid off, the tenant will be eligible to future rent and utility payments. These will be made month by month, and will be for three months at a time, and will cover full rent and utility costs. If further assistance is required after the initial three months, the tenant will need to reapply by way of a streamlined reapplication process and may be eligible for an additional three months at a time, for a maximum of fifteen months total. The Treasury Department program guidelines provides for priority application processing for tenants that meet specific preferences. These are tenants that are at or below 50% of Area Median Income and those with a tenant that has been unemployed for 90 days or more at the time of application. During the initial application period, these tenants were prioritized and processed first, while those not meeting these were initially waitlisted. Placer County and the City of Roseville will and have worked together to ensure consistency in program implementation.

From March 18, 2021 through April 30, 2021, the Placer County Housing Authority and the City of Roseville accepted applications for the ERA program. Nearly fifteen hundred initial applications were received between the two agencies.

On May 17, 2021, the DOT granted Placer County additional funding in the amount of \$3,748,328.76. Terms of this additional funding set forth by the DOT allow for an increase in the amount that may be spent on the administration of the program of a maximum of 10% to a maximum 15% and extending the maximum number of months a household can be granted from fifteen to eighteen months. Placer County Health and Human Services proposes the additional funding be distributed in the amount of \$1,958,501.78 to Placer County Housing Authority and \$1,789,826.98 to the City of Roseville. In the event that the City of Roseville is unable to distribute the balance of their original funds or these additional funds, the Department would like to get the funding to the Placer County Housing Authority to distribute.

FISCAL IMPACT

The grant dollars will be included in the Department's FY 2020-21 Budget and FY 2021-22 Budget.

The amendments are on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.